



The President's Daily Brief

3 July 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 July 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Cambodia, the struggle continues while Lon Nol attempts to make his government more efficient and tries to get some effective help from his neighbors.
(Page 1)

Libya expands the threat of nationalization to include two more US oil companies. (Page 4)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Violence is an increasing problem in the Dominican Republic, [REDACTED]
(Page 7)

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[REDACTED] a
little more information on the Soviet airlift.
(Page 8)

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CAMBODIA

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[REDACTED]

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The enemy shelled the provincial capital of Svay Rieng yesterday, causing 12 military and civilian casualties. A ground attack on Svay Rieng may be in the offing. Cambodian Army messages report considerable numbers of Communist troops to the northeast and east of the city. The enemy also directed sporadic fire against the Neak Luong ferry crossing yesterday.

Cambodian troops skirmished yesterday with an unknown number of Communists during a clearing operation on Route 6 southeast of Kompong Thom city. The enemy destroyed a bridge before being forced to withdraw.

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[REDACTED]

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Cambodian Army messages describe the situation at Siem Reap as calm but indicate that Communist troops have moved into position as close as two miles to the city. Allied air strikes continue against enemy gun positions that have been harassing Siem Reap from time to time.

The Communists may be intensifying their activities in Oddar Meanchey Province. Small enemy groups have been sighted by Cambodian forces near two villages south of the provincial capital of Samrong.

(continued)

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Intercepts show that the headquarters of both the Viet Cong 9th Division and the North Vietnamese 95C Regiment were deployed near Tonle Bet town in Kompong Cham Province on 1 July. Twenty-four Cambodian Army battalions, including some Khmer Krom units, are now assigned to the province. In addition, some South Vietnamese Army troops are still operating along sections of Route 7.

* * *

In addition to his recent cabinet shakeup, Lon Nol has revealed plans to reduce the administrative load on the ministries by establishing 12 general commissariats. The new organizations will be manned by technical experts who will be responsible for running program details. The exact relationship between the commissariats and the concerned ministries is unclear.

Lon Nol promises more sweeping reforms in the way in which Cambodia is governed. He has made a special point of indicating his government aims to better the lives of Cambodian villagers.

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A Cambodian delegation is scheduled to leave for Djakarta this week to work out the details for the training of Cambodian military personnel in Indonesia. The group will meet with President Suharto in addition to Indonesian military [redacted] officials.

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Indonesia has sent several teams of military advisers to Cambodia since April, but the question of Indonesian supply of other military assistance, such as arms, has caused some contention in Djakarta.

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In an interview with Ambassador Bunker on 1 July, President Thieu said he foresaw a long war in Cambodia, with the Communists pursuing a classical struggle in the countryside and harassing Phnom Penh to keep the government off balance.

Thieu says he intends, for the immediate future, to maintain pressure to keep the Communists out of their former sanctuaries along the border and that his forces may set up bases near the Parrot's Beak and Fishhook areas. Another base will be maintained at the Neak Luong ferry in order to facilitate the continued repatriation of Vietnamese refugees. One of the most troublesome problems that South Vietnamese forces have run into in the Cambodian interior so far, Thieu said, has been the need to furnish Cambodian forces with helicopters and other air support. Cambodian requests for helicopter lifts have been especially urgent due to the insecurity of many of the roads in the Cambodian countryside, and the South Vietnamese do not have enough helicopters to provide this kind of movement.

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LIBYA

The threat of nationalization continues to hang over US-owned oil companies. Occidental [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] Amerada-Hess and Marathon, are threatened. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] Local newspaper and radio commentary has been in a similar vein.

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Such threats help to build more pressure on Western oil firms during the current price negotiations and serve also to underline the opportunity that nationalization of [redacted] companies would present to the Libyans. [redacted]

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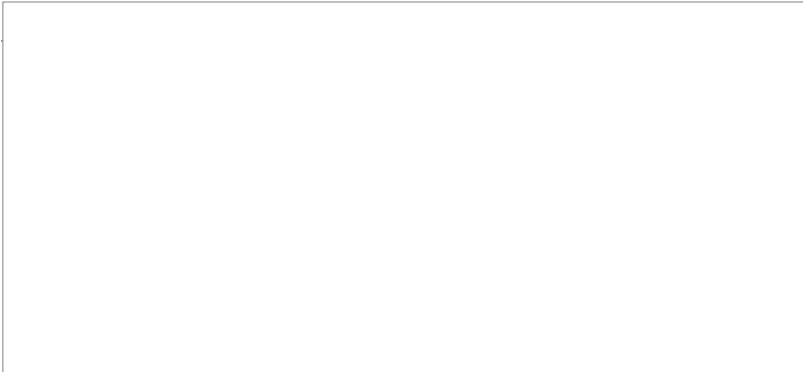
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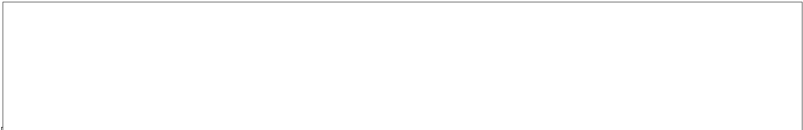
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WEST GERMANY



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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



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Since 26 June, there have been eight killings in Santo Domingo--six of them having political overtones. President Balaguer is determined to reduce the level of violence, and to that end has instituted special military and police patrols.

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USSR-PERU

The start of the Soviet airlift of relief aid to Peru has been moved up one day and now is to begin on 6 July. A western oil firm in Iceland (Esso) has been requested to refuel the Soviet aircraft.

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the Soviet shipment will consist of prefabricated homes, road-building equipment, and a family hospital. A group of 75 doctors is said to be scheduled to arrive in Peru early in July for a two-month stay.

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